

## SafeCare

Benefit-cost estimates updated December 2015. Literature review updated April 2012.

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [technical documentation](#).

**Program Description:** Formerly known as Project 12-Ways, SafeCare (<http://publichealth.gsu.edu/968.html>) is a manualized parent-training curriculum for parents who are at-risk or have been reported for child maltreatment. Trained professionals work with at-risk families in their home environments to improve parents' skills in several domains, such as planning and implementing activities with their children, responding appropriately to child behaviors, improving home safety, and addressing health and safety issues. SafeCare is generally provided in weekly home visits lasting from 1-2 hours. The program typically lasts 18-20 weeks for each family.

### Benefit-Cost Summary

Program benefits		Summary statistics	
Participants	\$2,087	Benefit to cost ratio	\$1.35
Taxpayers	\$1,355	Benefits minus costs	\$728
Other (1)	\$161	Probability of a positive net present value	51 %
Other (2)	(\$784)		
Total	\$2,820		
Costs	(\$2,092)		
Benefits minus cost	\$728		

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2014). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in our [technical documentation](#).

## Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

Source of benefits	Benefits to				
	Participants	Taxpayers	Other (1)	Other (2)	Total benefits
From primary participant					
Crime	\$0	\$52	\$110	\$26	\$189
Child abuse and neglect	\$41	\$323	\$0	\$161	\$525
K-12 grade repetition	\$0	\$7	\$0	\$4	\$11
K-12 special education	\$0	\$65	\$0	\$32	\$98
Property loss (alcohol abuse/dependence)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1
Health care (PTSD)	\$13	\$41	\$51	\$21	\$126
Labor market earnings (child abuse & neglect)	\$2,031	\$866	\$0	\$20	\$2,918
Adjustment for deadweight cost of program	\$1	\$1	\$0	(\$1,048)	(\$1,046)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,087</b>	<b>\$1,355</b>	<b>\$161</b>	<b>(\$784)</b>	<b>\$2,820</b>

We created the two "other" categories to report results that do not fit neatly in the "participant" or "taxpayer" perspectives. In the "Other (1)" category we include the benefits of reductions in crime victimization, the economic spillover benefits of improvement in human capital outcomes, and the benefits from private or employer-paid health insurance. In the "Other (2)" category we include estimates of the net changes in the value of a statistical life and net changes in the deadweight costs of taxation.

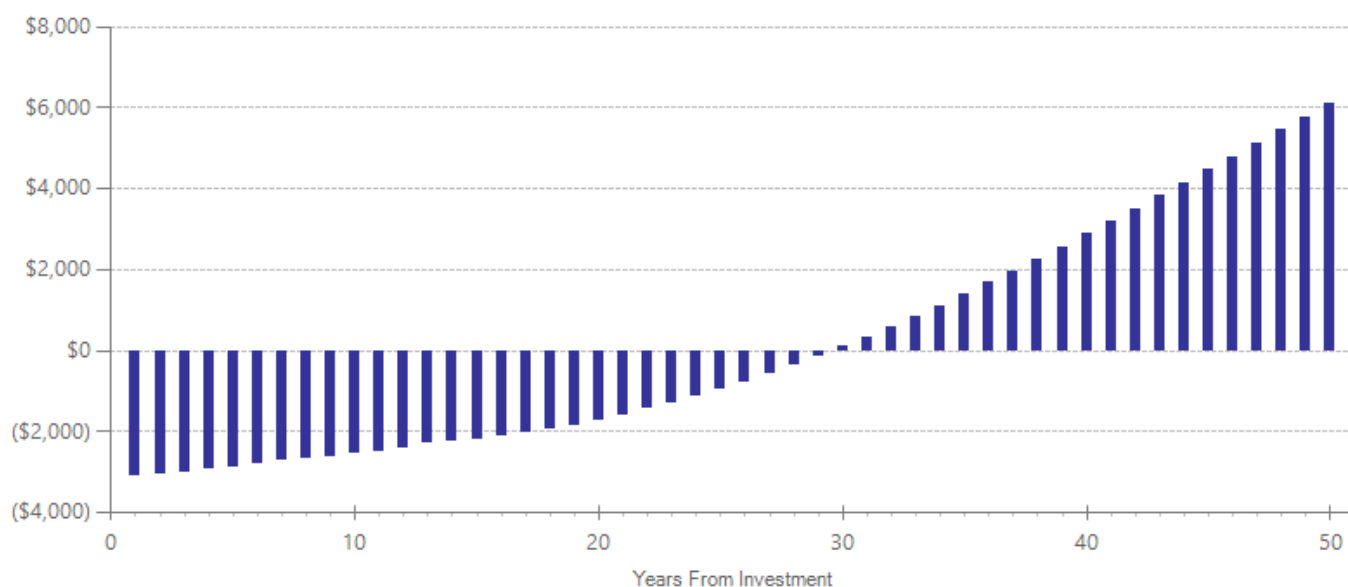
## Detailed Cost Estimates

	Annual cost	Program duration	Year dollars	Summary statistics	
Program costs	\$1,950	1	2010	Present value of net program costs (in 2014 dollars)	(\$2,092)
Comparison costs	\$1,780	0	2010	Uncertainty (+ or - %)	25 %

Costs for SafeCare provided by Washington Department of Social and Health Services, March 2012. Based on costs for eighteen home visits per family, including supervision, coaching, and travel time, plus a \$60 per-family cost for concrete services. In the evaluation of SafeCare described here, the results achieved by the intervention were achieved against a comparison group who received an equal number of home visits. However, the comparison group did not receive the manualized SafeCare curriculum, SafeCare health kits and handouts, or fidelity monitoring for the home visitors. Costs for the comparison group were computed by estimating a cost of \$100 for each family for these three components and subtracting that from the SafeCare cost.

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in our [technical documentation](#).

## Cumulative Net Cash Flows Over Time (Non-Discounted Dollars)



## Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	Primary or secondary participant	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)		Adjusted effect sizes and standard errors used in the benefit-cost analysis					
						First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
				ES	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Child abuse and neglect	Primary	1	1079	-0.113	0.051	-0.113	0.058	7	-0.113	0.058	17

## Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

Chaffin, M., Hecht, D., Bard, D., Silovsky, J. F., & Beasley, W. H. (2012). A statewide trial of the safecare home-based services model with parents in child protective services. *Pediatrics*, 129(3) 509-515.

For further information, contact:  
(360) 586-2677, [institute@wsipp.wa.gov](mailto:institute@wsipp.wa.gov)

Printed on 03-05-2016



## Washington State Institute for Public Policy

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy in 1983. A Board of Directors-representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities-governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.